to 1885 served as director of the weather observatory of the Magdeburgische Zeitschrift. He left this post to become a privatdocent at Halle, and was called from there to Berlin to become a member of the staff of the Royal Prussian Meteorological Institute. One of his most notable achievements at this period was the invention of the aspiration psychrometer.

At Berlin, Assmann soon identified himself with the development of scientific aeronautics, and this has ever since remained his most congenial field of activity. He succeeded in arousing great enthusiasm in behalf of scientific balloon ascents, and instituted the series of such ascents of which the results are recorded in the monumental work, "Wissenschaftliche Luftfahrten," published in three volumes in 1899–1900. Of this work, which may be regarded as a corner stone of the new science of aerology, Assmann was the principal editor. In 1899 he took a lead in the establishment of the first observatory ever created solely for upper-air investigations. Of this institution at first situated at Tegel, but moved in 1904 to Lindenberg, Assmann has been director almost from the beginning, and under his charge it has become an all-important center of aerological investigations, both theoretical and practical. An example of its direct utility to the aeronaut is found in the unique work of the aeronautical storm-warning service, of which the Lindenberg Observatory is the headquarters. When one considers Assmann's indefatigable industry in developing upper-air research, together with the fact that he was one of the discoverers of the isothermal layer, the title "father of aerology," conferred on him by Herr Béjeuhr, hardly seems an excessive compliment.

Assmann's scientific industry has been truly remarkable. He has edited the meteorological journal, "Das Wetter," since its foundation in 1884; has been joint editor with Hergesell of "Beiträge zur Physik der freien Atmosphäre" since its foundation in 1904; and has edited the, to meteorologists, indispensable "Kosmische Physik" volume of "Fortschritte der Physik" since 1887, in addition to the annual report of the Lindenberg Observatory, which is itself a scientific journal of great importance.

We may assume that freedom from administrative duties will enable Dr. Assmann to prosecute even more vigorously than in the past his admirable scientific investigations.

OBITUARY.

Monsieur E. Durand-Gréville, known to all meteorologists as a student of squall phenomena, died in Paris, January 20, 1914, in his seventy-sixth year. A brief notice of his career appears on page 97 of this volume of the REVIEW.

The honorable Francis Albert Rollo Russell died March 30. He was the third son of the first Earl Russell, was born April 11, 1849, and was still a youth when he began his meteorological investigations, which have covered a wide range. He was also interested in problems relating to public health, such as the abatement of coal smoke, etc. In collaboration with the late Douglas Archibald, he contributed to the great "Report of the Krakatoa Commission of the Royal Society," published in 1888, the section relating to optical phenomena. In 1891 he published what is still the most important memoir in the English language on the subject of hail. He was awarded a silver medal by the Smithsonian Institution for his paper "The atmosphere in relation to human life and health," submitted in the Hodgkins Fund prize competition. He was a vice president of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1893–94.